

August 8, 2019

Dear Senator Carpenter, Representative Rowland, and Members of the Banking and Insurance Interim Committee,

First I would like to thank you personally for your attention to Type One Diabetes and insulin pricing.

Type 1 diabetes is a fatal disease without insulin treatment. Millions of Americans must take insulin many times a day, every day, just to survive. Yet the cost of insulin has soared.

Our daughter, Lauren, was diagnosed with Type One at age 6 after she had a virus. No one else on either side of our families had Type One so we were all totally shocked and on a quick and steep learning curve to keep her living with diabetes.

Lauren is now 25 years old, graduated from college away from home, is working and living on her own. She has done very well with taking care of herself and her diabetes management for 8 years. As you know, that is an everyday struggle to keep her levels in check, eat the right foods so she does not get sick or have an unexpected blood sugar high or low, and before she started using the Continuous Glucose Monitor (CGM), she pricked her fingers up to 10 times a day to stay on top of her glucose levels.

Now Lauren, like others, faces a new challenge. Once she turns 26 years old in February, Lauren now is also solely responsible for her Healthcare costs through insurance and her deductibles and co-pays. Her quality of life has improved thanks to advances in technology the past 20 years, and she and others with Type One **depend upon insulin to live**. Lauren has experienced the trauma of being in intensive care for 5 days due to DKA (Diabetic Ketoacidosis) when her body was not utilizing insulin. Therefore, we are all acutely aware of her need for affordable insulin. She cannot wait hours without insulin without being in crisis.

With new innovations in technology and care for those with insulin dependent diabetes to live longer and healthier lives, the cost of their life-sustaining insulin has continued to increase.

Through our Coverage2Control campaign, JDRF has been rallying our community to call on companies to lower the price of insulin, and for health plans, employers, and the government to take steps to lower out-of-pocket costs. Coverage2Control focuses on three things to help people with type 1 diabetes control the disease: predictable and reasonable out-of-pocket costs for insulin and diabetes management tools; the freedom to choose the type of insulin and insulin pump that's right for them; and for all life-saving technology to be covered, including artificial pancreas systems.

On behalf of Lauren, our family and the many families with those living with Type One Diabetes, I want to thank each of you for your commitment to solving this problem. We need change in the current insulin pricing system, change that you can help make happen.

Sincerely,

Karen F. Riggs